

Task Force on Behavioral Health Data Policies and Long Term Stays Meeting Summary

Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Place: Meeting Room Newbury A and B | 501 Boylston Street | Boston

Meeting Attendees

Task Force Members	Contractors and Guests
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Áron Boros (chair)✓ Terri Anderson✓ Matt Collins✓ Karen Coughlin✓ Vic DiGravio✓ Pat Edraos✓ Tim Gens✓ Michael Goldberg✓ Greg Harris✓ Melody Hugo✓ Anne Manton✓ David Matteodo✓ Mark Pearlmutter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Beth Waldman, Bailit Health Purchasing✓ Megan Burns, Bailit Health Purchasing

Meeting Summary

I. Welcome and Introductions

Áron Boros started the meeting and provided the group with an overview of the agenda. He also called a motion to approve the meeting summaries from February 26, March 10, and March 24. They were each approved unanimously by present Task Force members and will be updated to the website for public review.

II. Public Comment

Áron Boros opened the floor for comments on the dashboard measures. No one offered comments.

III. Behavioral Health Data Dashboard

Beth Waldman discussed the behavioral health data dashboard reminding the Task Force members of the prioritization exercise that was conducted on March 10th. She noted that Bailit put together a survey of payers and providers, in part to address the legislation, and in part to assess whether payers and providers were collecting the data the Task Force had prioritized.

Beth shared the results of the survey, including responses to what would help providers and payers with data sharing and what would help them with access to relevant data for behavioral health patients. A few survey respondents identified privacy laws and the understanding and application of those laws to be of concern.

The Task Force discussed the issues around the privacy laws. Áron made a suggestion to circulate the recommendations that were made by the DMH Task Force on Behavioral Health Integration to the group for potential consideration and adoption by this Task Force.

The Task Force then reviewed the measures domain by domain and provided feedback for inclusion in the final version of the dashboard. Because of time constraints in the meeting, conversation was focused on the access, workforce and infrastructure, and fair and reasonable payment policies domains. Melody Hugo (SEIU Local 509) discussed the effort her organization put forth to collect survey data regarding the behavioral health work force. She noted that the surveys were time consuming and expensive, but resulted in important findings that have broader application beyond the SEIU. The remaining conversation resulted in a number of suggested revisions to the dashboard which will be reviewed by the Task Force members during the May 19th meeting.

Beth also reviewed a recommendation that the Governor establish a state-data work group to address the barriers that exist in sharing data across state agencies, which was based on a meeting that Bailit held with state agency staff to understand their challenges. The Task Force members agreed that this recommendation should be included in the final report.

IV. Discussion of Potential Recommendations on Long Term Stays

Megan Burns reviewed the draft recommendations that have been proposed to address the issues regarding long lengths of stay in the inpatient psychiatric and continuing care facility units. She reminded the group of the data that was reviewed for Task Force deliberations and the previous discussion that has been had on the recommendations that were up for discussion.

Tim Gens (MHA) and David Matteodo (MABHS) discussed a recommendation that they jointly put forth regarding the broad operations of the behavioral health system during the weekend. The Task Force suggested a few modifications to the recommendation which will be made for the next iteration of review.

The remaining recommendations were reviewed by the Task Force, including those specifically put forth by the Massachusetts Psychological Association. The conversations resulted in many suggested edits which will be made prior to the next meeting.

V. Next Steps

Beth and Megan are to incorporate the suggested edits into the next iteration of the recommendations and send them to Task Force members for review by May 6th. The Task Force is then asked to provide specific comments on the recommendations by May 13th. The final recommendations will be put forward as a vote during the May 19th meeting.

The next meeting will be held on May 19th from 9:30 – noon in the CHIA offices located at 501 Boylston Street.